PRELIMINARY NOTES ON DOCUMENTS RELATING TO MARTY ABELOW 8/12/68

Blankenbaker's letter of 2/4/64 to Rankin: Note date handbill was obtained by the NASA Houston Security office; the distribution was on June 16. Was Abelow so much a right-winger - or unpolitical - that he really thought the Security Officer would be interested in such an innocuous pamphlet, from another city? As far as I can tell, he did not notify the N.O. police, or the FBI. Maybe the NASA people heard he was showing these leaflets around and sought him out? That's not so unlikely - I had one of these handbills posted on my bulletin board at LRL Berkeley; one night it was removed, folded up, and returned; I suspect that a not-too-bright LRL cop thought it was interesting enough to copy.

I have the previous NASA-Commission correspondence (3 letters). It is routine and/or irrelevant.

The handbill has Hidell's name on it; the one(s) the N.O. Harbor Police obtained that day were unstamped. (The one printed at 22H807 is a doctored version of CE2966A, but other copies of this page in the Archives and a copy remaining in N.O. indicate that the blanking out of the address was done at the G.P.O., and that the handbill that should have been printed had no address.)

This NASA letter was apparently filed and forgotten, since it is not mentioned in any of the later documents. In CE 1033, note that source knew quite a bit about Abelow and about Oswald's activities; either he was an unusually well-informed buddy of Abelow's or he had done a bit of investigating. He is a confidential source but not specifically one who had furnished reliable information in the past. Pehhaps a NASA security man?

Note that CD 1034 was typed up the day of the interview and sent to the Commission as a separate CD. A piece of paper has evidently been placed over the bottom part of the page.

CD 1204: the synopsis isn't much. The details are identical, verbatim, to the text of CD 1033. No indication what kind of work Abelow does; no reference to his alleged trips to Dallas; no indication that he took some of the leaflets that were being distributed, much less that he turned one over to the Security Officer ~~(his boss, perhaps??)~~ and that it had a name on it. The interviewing agents presumably knew that Abelow had reportedly been showing the leaflets around at NASA.

Pages 2,3,4 of CD 1204 relate to the Bay Area FPCC, the national FPCC, and the Bay Area SWP, respectively. Rather irrelevant, but not atypical.

I have a letter from Rankin (for Liebeler) to Hoover, dated July 9, 1964, noting CD 1204 and asking the FBI to "investigate the possibility that Lee Harvey Oswald, either alone or with others, may have distributed (FPCC) literature under the circumstances indicated above." The resulting investigation is presented in CE 1412.

Added later: We have learned that Abelow is working at Lockheed - Sunnyvale (near Palo Alto.) I found a reference to a paper by him in the technical literature indicating he is in electronics or electrical engineering. (Too bad - a U-2 test pilot would have been much more interesting!)

A search should be made for photos of this literature distribution. The N.O. papers? The Navy P.R. Office (fat chance!)? Family of Wasp crewmen? It's worth a try.

cc:WT

WARNING: Please do not confuse my analysis with established fact !